



**U. S. Department of Justice
U. S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**
Chuck Rosenberg • United States Attorney

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**HARLINGEN MAN CONVICTED OF TRANSPORTING
MILLIONS IN DRUG MONEY**

(BROWNSVILLE, TX) United States Attorney Chuck Rosenberg today announced the conviction of Pilar Navarro, 31, of Harlingen, Texas, for transporting more than \$2 million in drug proceeds from New York City to the Rio Grande Valley. Navarro pleaded guilty to transporting in aid of racketeering enterprises on Wednesday, January 4, 2006, before United States District Judge Hilda G. Tagle.

During yesterday's hearing, evidence proved that on October 11, 2005, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agents learned that Navarro would be traveling to Brownsville from New York City and transporting bulk currency derived from the sale of narcotics. On October 13, 2005, in Santa Rosa, Cameron County, Texas, acting on the information received, ICE agents seized \$2,132,261 in United States currency from a tractor/trailer rig driven by Navarro. The currency derived from drug trafficking was concealed in suitcases located inside the tractor/trailer rig. Navarro admitted he had received the suitcases that he knew to contain drug money in New York City and was transporting it to Brownsville for delivery to another individual.

Navarro has forfeited any interest he might have in the drug money to the United States.

At sentencing scheduled for April 3, 2006, Navarro faces a maximum of five (5) years in federal prison without parole and a \$250,000 fine. Presently in federal custody without bond, Navarro will remain in custody pending his sentencing hearing.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorneys Joe Esquivel and Allan Hoffman.

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